

THE 12TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT REPORT



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YEE COMPLETES TENURE IN ASSEMBLY



YEE FINISHES TERM PASSING 64 BILLS THROUGH STATE LEGISLATURE, 48 SIGNED INTO LAW

While Speaker pro Tem Leland Yee has not yet officially ended his State Assembly term, he effectively completed his tenure in the lower house last month with his final Assembly bills signed into law. Yee's term officially ends in December when he is expected to be sworn in to the State Senate, becoming the first Chinese American ever to serve in the upper house in the 156 year history of California.

"Speaker pro Tem Yee has been a large part of the reason that this house operates with civility," said Speaker Fabian Núñez. "When he's not on the podium, Dr. Yee has one of the best track records in getting his bills passed and signed into law."

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YEE, WOMEN'S INITIATIVE HOST BUSINESS FAIR



ONE-DAY CONFERENCE AIMS TO HELP LOW INCOME WOMEN START THEIR OWN BUSINESS

As a way to help low income women start their own small business, Assembly Speaker pro Tem Yee along with the Women's Initiative for Self Employment sponsored a one-day conference titled, "Take Flight With Your Business: A Business Fair for Women."

Recently, the City of San Francisco also earmarked \$500,000 for microenterprise development for women. Microenterprises are businesses with fewer than five employees.

"Microenterprises fuel our local economy, said Yee. "Nearly eighty percent of all new job growth in California between 1999 and 2003 came from microbusinesses. By supporting these storefronts, restaurants, and home-based business owners, we help ensure a more stable foundation for California's economy."

Last year, Yee authored Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 76 declaring October as Microenterprise Development Month to raise awareness of microenterprise training and support programs in our communities.

Women's Initiative for Self Employment provides a safe, supportive environment where high-potential, lower-income women can receive the help they need to start and grow their own businesses. Women's Initiative offers a 20-session business training course, individual coaching and financing services. Women graduate not only with a business plan, but self-confidence

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During his four year tenure in the Assembly, Yee successfully passed 64 bills through the Legislature, 48 of which were signed into law by Governors Arnold Schwarzenegger or Gray Davis.

Yee's most notable legislation includes AB 1179 (2005), a law to protect children from the harmful effects of ultra-violent video games by prohibiting such sales to minors. The bill is currently on hold as a result of an industry lawsuit against the State. Other major legislative accomplishments by Yee include, AB 3042 (2004) to help protect children from being exploited through prostitution by adding new penalties for adult offenders; AB 800 (2005) to guarantee a patient's spoken language is included in his/her medical records; AJR 14 (2005) officially declaring California's opposition to any weakening of the federal offshore oil drilling moratorium; AB 938 (2003) offering incentives to mental health practitioners working in medically under-served communities; AB 792 (2003) to help prevent predatory towing.

Most recently, Yee authored AB 2581, making California the first state in the nation to specifically prohibit censorship of college student press, including school newspapers and broadcast journalism. Additionally in 2006, Yee passed AB 450 to require disaster preparedness agencies to consider household pets, service animals, equines, and livestock in emergency evacuation planning; AB 1969 to increase the production of renewable energy in California by allowing water and wastewater agencies to sell environmentally-friendly energy – such as small hydro, solar, and biogas – produced by their treatment and delivery facilities to electrical companies, resulting in up to 250 new megawatts of energy into the state's grid; and AB 1207 to help end discrimination against the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community during campaigns by prohibiting the use of any negative appeal based on prejudice of sexual orientation or gender identity by candidates or campaign committees who sign the voluntary pledge provided for in the Code of Fair Campaign Practices.

"I am proud of the work we have been able to accomplish over the past four years, fighting for our children, mental health services, working families, the environment, and civil rights," said Yee. "I look forward to continuing these efforts in the Legislature."

During his Assembly term, Yee has been named "Legislator of the Year" by a number of organizations, including the California Association of School Psychologists, California School Nutrition Association, California Psychiatric Association, Faculty Association of California Community Colleges, and California Mental Health Directors Association. In addition, he was named the "2005 Person of the Year" by GamePolitics.com, a leading video game news site.

In his first year in the Legislature, Yee was appointed to the Speaker's leadership team as the Assistant Speaker pro Tempore. In 2004, he became the first Asian Pacific American to be appointed Speaker pro Tempore, the number two position in the California State Assembly, a position he held for three years. In 2004, Yee was also elected President of the National Asian Pacific American Caucus of State Legislators.



CALIFORNIA ENACTS EMERGENCY NAIL SALON LAW

GOVERNOR SIGNS YEE'S BILL TO CLEAN UP UNSANITARY NAIL SALONS, HELP END OUTBREAKS

California has enacted an urgency law aimed at protect consumers from unsanitary nail salons with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signing into law AB 409, authored by Assemblymember Yee. Unlike other bills signed into law this month by the Governor which don't take effect until January 1, AB 409 becomes law immediately.

The new law comes after a number of outbreaks and a recent death in Mountain View which is suspected to have been caused by an infection received during a pedicure.

"Fortunately, members of both sides of the aisle, the Legislature and the Governor, came together to swiftly enact this urgency measure," said Yee. "This bill is a good first step in cleaning up unsanitary salons and protecting consumers."

"Unsanitary nail salons pose a serious health threat to consumers," said Schwarzenegger. "I want to thank Assemblymember Yee for his hard work on this important legislation that will protect consumers from suffering disease and infection should they visit unsanitary nail salons."

Last year, Yee successfully passed legislation establishing new cleaning requirements for salons and requiring notification to consumers who visit salons found in violation of health and safety codes, but the bill was vetoed by Schwarzenegger. However, the Governor's veto message directed the Department of Consumer Affairs to establish a working group on footspa safety.

The working group made several recommendations, including a new set of footspa cleaning requirements and increasing fines to \$500 per footspa chair or cleaning log for a maximum of \$5,000 per inspection – which are being implemented by the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology. The other recommendations are included in AB 409.

AB 409 directs the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology to immediately suspend any license without advance hearing, if the action is necessary to protect the public health and safety. A licensee found in violation could be placed on probation for one year, required to undertake remedial training in health and safety laws and regulations, subject to re-inspection at the cost of establishment owner, as well as new citation fines.

When visiting a salon, consumers should look out for the following:

- manicures and pedicures should not be painful or leave your cuticles bloody and swollen
- manicurists/pedicurists should wash their hands with soap and water before touching a client's hands/feet
- thorough washing and disinfecting of all tools should be performed after every use
- make sure the technician is washing the instruments in hot soapy water and that disinfectant is applied to the instruments
- soiled instruments must be stored separately from clean instruments
- emery boards that are not approved for disinfection should be discarded after use to prevent transmission of yeast or bacterial infections from one client's nails to the next
- instruments and supplies that cannot be disinfected, such as orange sticks and the sponges placed between the toes, should be thrown away immediately after use
- drill bits should be cleaned after each client
- foot spas or foot bath units should be cleaned and disinfected after each use
- the technician's work area should be free of debris and dirt
- the salon's license should be current and posted in plain view and the nail technician's license should be posted at his or her work station.

2006: 12 YEE-AUTHORED BILLS PASS LEGISLATURE, 10 CHAPTERED INTO LAW

For more details, click on each piece of legislation

Legislation	Title	Location
AB 409	Nail salon safety: consumer protection	Chapter 381
AB 450	Animal disaster planning	Chapter 604
AB 469	School food: nutrition guidelines	<i>Governor Vetoed</i>
AB 790	Fraudulent lending practices	Chapter 199
AB 1207	Sexual orientation: fair political practices	Chapter 551
AB 1852	Mental health provider: loan forgiveness	Chapter 557
AB 1969	Water agencies: renewable energy	Chapter 731
AB 2004	Incarcerated youth: Medi-Cal reinstatement	<i>Governor Vetoed</i>
AB 2357	Laura's Law: assisted outpatient treatment	Chapter 774
AB 2581	College media: free speech protection	Chapter 158
AB 2776	Mental health: community treatment	Chapter 796
ACR 106	White Ribbon Campaign	Chapter 10

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as well. After graduation, clients can access much-needed capital through a matched savings program and loan fund.

A recently released report of Women's Initiative graduates revealed considerable income and job growth for program participants. In fact, the annual household income for participants entering the program is just \$14,000. Two years after Women's Initiative training, their income leaps to over \$37,000. 205 new jobs were created by Women's Initiative clients this year and another documented 179 jobs were retained from previous years.

The average Women's Initiative client business pays \$14.49 an hour in wages, over double the minimum wage in California. This wage is especially impressive given that many client businesses operate in sectors such as housekeeping and food service that traditionally pay close to minimum wage.

"The graduates of the Women's Initiative are shattering economic barriers and contributing significantly to our communities," said Yee. "Through this conference, we were able to spotlight their accomplishments while also providing valuable tools to other women who may want to start their own small business."



INTERNATIONAL TRADE BILL SIGNED YEE HELPS LEAD EFFORT TO DEVELOP FOREIGN TRADE AND INVESTMENT POLICY

Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law SB 1513, a bipartisan bill establishing a comprehensive trade and investment policy for California.

The bill, authored by Senators Gloria Romero and Liz Figueroa and principal co-authored by Assemblymember Yee, sets up a State administrative structure for foreign relations and an overall State policy on foreign trade and investment.

The bill also allows for the re-establishment of international trade offices provided certain criteria and provides the Legislature with oversight through business plans and public hearings before the relevant policy and fiscal committees each year.

"SB 1513 comes after years of hard work and discussions on California's role in international trade and investment," said Yee, Chair of the Select Committee on California's Foreign Trade Offices. "I am proud to be a part of this effort to bring forth a comprehensive trade bill that involves both the Governor and the Legislature, and allows for the proper and necessary oversight to guarantee taxpayer dollars are spent wisely."



2006 AUTUMN MOON FESTIVAL



September 11, 2006

The Sacramento Bee

Monday

No stopping the student presses

A new law bans the censorship of public university and college newspapers in California

By Aurelio Rojas - Bee Capitol Bureau



Like generations of college journalists before him, Nate Miller gave up a night of sleep last week to publish his newspaper's first issue of the school year.

The editor in chief of the State Hornet at California State University, Sacramento, was guided by the knowledge he will continue to enjoy the same First Amendment rights afforded his predecessors.

Legislation signed Aug. 28 by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger makes California the first state in the nation to prohibit public university and college officials from censoring student journalists.

"It's a good thing that the bill will protect the status quo," said Miller, a senior who worked on his community college and high school newspapers.

Miller, 23, always assumed he enjoyed the same legal protection as professional journalists. But supporters of Assembly Bill 2581 said a federal court ruling and subsequent memo sent by the top attorney for the CSU system to college presidents called out for pre-emptive legislation.

The bill by Assemblyman Leland Yee, D-San Francisco, grew out of a federal court ruling affecting the student press in Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana.

After the newspaper at Governor's State University in Illinois published a series of articles critical of the school's administration, the school instituted a requirement that articles be submitted to the administration for approval before publication.

In *Hosty v. Carter*, a trial court ruled in the students' favor. But the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals disagreed in June 2005, and the U.S. Supreme Court declined to take the case.

Christine Helwick, general counsel for the CSU system, then sent a memo to presidents at each campus, providing a legal opinion.

"While the *Hosty* decision is from another jurisdiction and, as such, does not directly impact the CSU, the case appears to signal that CSU campuses may have more latitude than previously believed to censor the content of subsidized student newspapers," she wrote.

"Provided that there is an established practice of regularized content review and approval for pedagogical purposes."

Yee said the memo sent a "chilling message to all of us who respect and appreciate the First Amendment."

"For a university official to basically tell college administrators how to usurp the First Amendment was absolutely mind-boggling," Yee said.

Jim Ewert, legal counsel for the California Newspaper Publishers Association, said the resulting "shock waves" called out for the legislation.

Helwick was unavailable for comment. But Clara Potes-Fellow, spokeswoman for the CSU system, said officials welcomed the legislation, which takes effect Jan. 1.

Potes-Fellow said Helwick's memo was a legal opinion and did not reflect university policy.

"The CSU supports freedom of speech for students," Potes-Fellow said. "Students always have enjoyed freedom of speech and the ability to have newspapers, television and radio stations to practice journalism."

Ewert said college journalists in California operated on that premise until the *Hosty* decision. So secure were they that in 1992, when the Legislature passed censorship protections for high school students, public colleges and universities declined to be included.

"The reason for declining was based on the belief that they had First Amendment protections that was broader than the education code section that would be enacted for high school journalists," Ewert said.

Holly Heyser, the Hornet's new faculty adviser, said she was never censored while working as a student on the newspaper during the 1980s.

But she said communication department officials were pleased the legislation was overwhelmingly approved and signed by the governor. State Sens. Dennis Hollingsworth, R-

Murrieta, and Bob Margett, R-Arcadia, cast the lone dissenting votes.

Heyser spent the past two decades as a professional journalist -- most recently as state editor of the Orange County Register.

In her new role, she serves as a sounding board for students as they put into practice what they learn in the classroom.

"They have the ultimate decision over what they put in the paper," she said. "They are supposed to contact me or ask me for advice if they think they are putting anything in the paper that might be defamatory or libelous."

While many professional newspapers have been losing readers, college newspapers are flourishing.

Seventy-one percent of college students read at least one of the last five issues of their campus newspaper, according to a 2005 survey by the market research firm Student Monitor.

By comparison, only 46 percent of college students read the print version of at least one national newspaper in a typical week. Advertisers that regularly place ads in college newspapers are noticing.

The Hornet, published each Wednesday with new postings each weekday on its Web site, is supported by advertising revenues and student fees.

With a circulation of 12,000, the newspaper covers the lifeblood issues of student publications -- university officials and student government, entertainment and sports.

Miller joked that maybe university officials have not cracked down on the newspaper because "we're not reporting hard enough on the administration."

CSUS President Alexander Gonzalez does not always agree with the Hornet. But as he wrote in his fall address, posted on the university's Web site: "Yes, I read the student newspaper regularly. I think they do a good job."

Occasionally, readers on some campuses are not as sanguine.

This year, issues of newspapers at Glendale Community College and Pasadena City College were removed from campus racks.

Assembly Bill 2612, approved by the Legislature, would criminalize the theft of freely distributed newspapers.

The legislation, sponsored by the California Newspaper Publisher Association and introduced by Assemblyman George Plescia, R-La Jolla, awaits action on the governor's desk. ♦





September 23, 2006

THE DAILY JOURNAL

Saturday

Nail salons facing stricter regulation

By Brigid Gaffikin

Nail salons across California can be shut down on the spot by health inspectors and will face fines of up to \$5,000 for violations of the state's health and safety codes, under guidelines effective Friday.

The new rules came into effect Friday morning, when Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed AB 409, authored by Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Leland Yee, D-San Francisco.



Under the new rules, a salon's license can be suspended immediately and without a hearing by the state Board of Barbering and Cosmetology if the business violates health and safety laws and regulations.

AB 409 also allows the board to levy fines of \$500 per violation up to a maximum of \$5,000 per inspection, Yee spokesman Adam Keigwin said.

Any salon with a suspended license that seeks to stay open must provide remedial training for its employees, and salon owners, rather than taxpayers, will foot the bill for reinspections, he said.

Under the new rules, salon owners who feel they have been unfairly cited can complain in writing to a review committee.

The stricter regulations come in the wake of a number of bacterial and fungal infections across the state linked to poorly cleaned salons.

One Bay Area woman died because of an infection contracted at a Mountain View salon, according to her family.

The mother of 43-year-old Sunnyvale resident Jessica Mears alleges her daughter, who had the chronic immune deficiency illness lupus and who died June 20, contracted an infection at a nail salon in Nov. 2004 that grew into a 4-by-6-inch lesion on her leg and contributed to her death.

Bacteria related to tuberculosis and staph infections can linger in poorly cleaned pedicure and manicure baths and tools and have contributed to infections in salons throughout California, according to Schwarzenegger's office.

"Salons that are failing to use the proper disinfectants and cleaning mechanisms are not innocent businesses, but are irresponsible businesses risking the health of consumers and an entire industry," Yee said in a statement.

